

I. INTRODUCTION

Nationwide, millions of people with a variety of health problems use medical sharps such as needles, syringes, and lancets to manage their care at home. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, more than 3 billion sharps are discarded annually outside of health care settings. On Long Island, the annual number of syringes used is conservatively estimated at 65 million. Unlike medical waste from hospitals, the waste from a private home is not monitored and regulated. Therefore, disposing of syringes in the household trash can result in a needlestick injury that can spread diseases such as hepatitis, tetanus, and HIV. This guide provides information that may be useful in preventing these needlestick injuries.

II. MEDICAL SHARPS DISPOSAL

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Health recommend that sharps should be kept out of household trash and recycling bins in order to protect trash handlers, sewage treatment workers, and the general public against disease or injury. Therefore, the following guidelines outline how to safely store used sharps in your home:

- 1) Use a sharps container or a puncture-proof plastic container with a tight-fitting screw top. A laundry detergent or bleach bottle will suffice.
- 2) Don't use glass because it can break, and coffee cans are not recommended because the plastic lids come off too easily.
- 3) Label the container clearly. Write "Contains Sharps" with a waterproof marker directly on the container or on masking tape on the container.
- 4) Once you have used a syringe or lancet, immediately put it into your container. Screw on the top, don't clip, bend, or recap the needles because you could injure yourself.
- 5) Keep the container away from children!
- 6) When the container is full, screw on the cap tightly. Seal it with heavy-duty tape to be extra-safe.

III. MEDICAL SHARPS DISPOSAL AT DESIGNATED CENTERS

Medical sharps from private homes should be disposed at a designated medical facility. Public Health Law requires that New York State Department of Health licensed hospitals and nursing homes accept used medical sharps from private residences for proper disposal. The requirements are enumerated in Public Health Law, section 1389-dd. that became effective June 30, 1996. (See Appendix B.) Each medical facility, as defined in this section, must have a "Household Sharp Disposal Plan".

This Guide lists all of the facilities in Nassau County, which are required to accept medical sharps from private residences. These facilities have different requirements. Please contact them prior to bringing in medical sharps to be disposed.

IV. MEDICAL SHARPS DISPOSAL FROM PUBLIC AREAS

If a needle or syringe is found in a public area such as a park or playground, call the Nassau County Police Department by dialing 911. Police cars are equipped with approved medical waste disposal containers.

V. NEEDLE DISPOSAL SITES

This guide includes information about local hospitals and nursing homes in Nassau County, which are required to accept medical sharps from private homes.

VI. OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES

For information regarding local Departments of Sanitation call the following numbers:

Town of Hempstead	(516) 489-6000
Town of North Hempstead	(516) 767-4608
Town of Oyster Bay	(516) 624-6390
City of Glen Cove	(516) 676-4167
City of Long Beach	(516) 432-3132

Nassau County Department of Health
Bureau of HIV Services (516) 571-2019

Nassau County Police Department
If a needle or syringe is found in a public area in Nassau County, call 911

The Nassau County HIV Commission was appointed by the Nassau County Board of Health in 1989 and is charged with addressing issues related to the HIV epidemic in Nassau County. The HIV Commission is organized into committees including the Steering Committee, the Membership Committee, the Long Term Planning Committee, the Policy Advisory Committee, and the Prevention Committee.

The HIV Commission Prevention Committee was given the task of addressing the many issues surrounding syringes and needles, and their relation to HIV transmission. With input from various experts including Dr. Terry Ruefli, Executive Director of the New York Harm Reduction Educators, it was determined that there is a need to increase the public's awareness of the proper methods of syringe disposal. The development of this document was the first step in addressing this need.

This guide is even more important as a result of the New York State Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP), effective 1/1/01 – 3/31/03 and extended through 2007. Under this law, persons age 18 years and older can legally possess hypodermic needles and syringes obtained through ESAP. These syringes may be purchased or obtained without prescription, from participating licensed pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes, community health centers, doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants (Public Health Law Section: 3381, Chapter 56, Laws of 2000 Appendix A).

For more information, please contact the Bureau of HIV Services at (516) 571-2019.

Nassau County Sharps Disposal Information

HOSPITALS

NOTE: Please contact facility before bringing sharps

NAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	DAYS/HOURS of Operation	CONTACT	PHONE
Franklin Hospital Medical Center	900 Franklin Avenue	North Valley Stream	WEDNESDAY 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Environmental Services Dept.	256-6170
Long Beach Medical Center	455 East Bay Drive	Long Beach	MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 AM – 5 PM (excluding holidays)	Director of Environmental Services	897-1239
Mercy Medical Center	1000 North Village Avenue	Rockville Centre	MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (excluding holidays)	Housekeeping Department	705-1801
New-Island Hospital	4295 Hempstead Tpke.	Bethpage	MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM – 4 PM	Director of Housekeeping	520-2305
Nassau University Medical Center	2201 Hempstead Tpke.	East Meadow	7 DAYS/24 HOURS (ambulance entry)	Housekeeping Department	572-6542
North Shore L.I. Jewish Hillside Medical Center	270-05 76 th Ave.	New Hyde Park	MONDAY – FRIDAY 8 AM – 5 PM	Housekeeping Department	(718) 470-7420
North Shore University Hospital at Manhasset	300 Community Drive	Manhasset	MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Environmental Services	562-4155
North Shore University Hospital at Glen Cove	101 St. Andrews Lane	Glen Cove	7 DAYS/24 HOURS	Laboratory	674-7515
North Shore University Hospital at Plainview	888 Old Country Road	Plainview	MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (emergency room)	Environmental Services	719-2253
North Shore University Hospital at Syosset	221 Jericho Tpke.	Syosset	FRIDAY 7 AM-2:30 PM (emergency room)	Environmental Services	496-6448

NAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	DAYS/HOURS of Operation	CONTACT	PHONE
St. Francis Hospital	100 Port Washington	Roslyn	WEDNESDAY 8 AM – 4 PM	Environmental Services	562-6656
South Nassau Communities Hospital	1 Healthy Way	Oceanside	MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 AM - 5 PM	Housekeeping Department	632-4613
Winthrop University Hospital	259 First Street	Mineola	WEDNESDAY ALL DAY SAT & SUN 6 AM - 8 PM	Environmental Services	663-3401

RESIDENTIAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

NOTE: Please contact facility before bringing sharps

Name	Address	Town	Days/Hours of Operation	Contact	Phone
A. Holly Patterson Nursing Home	875 Jerusalem Avenue	Uniondale	MONDAY – FRIDAY 8 AM - 3 PM	Nursing Supervisor	572-1408
Bayview Nursing Home	1 Long Beach Road	Island Park	MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Housekeeping Supervisor	432-0300 X 181
Beach Terrace Care Center	640 W. Broadway	Long Beach	MAKE APPOINTMENT	Director of Housekeeping	431-4400
Belair Care Center	2478 Jerusalem Avenue	N. Bellmore	WEDNESDAY 10 AM - 2 PM	Front Desk Receptionist	826-1160
Central Island Health Care	825 Old Country Road	Plainview	1 st & 3 rd TUESDAY 10 AM – 11:30 PM	Housekeeping	433-0600
Daleview Care Center	574 Fulton Street	Farmingdale	WEDNESDAY 10 AM – 3 PM	Director of Nursing	694-6242
East Rockaway Progressive Care Facility	243 Atlantic Avenue	Lynbrook	LAST MONDAY 10 AM – 12 PM	Infection Control Nurse	599-2744 X29
Fulton Commons Care	60 Merrick Avenue	East Meadow	MONDAY - FRIDAY	Housekeeping	222-9300

Name	Address	Town	Days/Hours of Operation	Contact	Phone
Center			2 PM - 4 PM		
Glen Cove Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation	6 Medical Plaza	Glen Cove	FRIDAY 9 AM – 10 AM	Nursing Supervisor	671-9010
Garden Care Center	135 Franklin Avenue	Franklin Square	1 st & 3 rd THURSDAY 2 PM – 7 PM	Operator	775-2100
Glengariff Health Care Center	Dosoris Lane	Glen Cove	2 nd TUESDAY OF MONTH 7:30 AM - 8 PM	Director of Housekeeping	676-1100 at menu press 2-9-4
Grace Plaza of Great Neck, Inc	15 St. Paul's Place	Great Neck	THURSDAY 8 AM - 9:00 PM	Environmental Services	466-3001 498-1240
Komanoff Center for Geriatrics	375 E. Bay Drive	Long Beach	MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 AM – 5 PM (excluding holidays)	Infection Control	897-1000
Long Beach Grandell Rehab & Nursing Center	645 W. Broadway	Long Beach	MONDAY-FRIDAY 9 AM - 5 PM SATURDAY 7 AM – 4 PM	Receptionist	889-1100 X"0"
Marquis Care Center	2 Medical Plaza	Glen Cove	1 st MONDAY OF MONTH 2 PM - 4 PM	Infection Control	671-0858
Mayfair Care Center	100 Baldwin Road	Hempstead	TUESDAY 10 AM - 12 PM	Nursing Supervisor	538-7171
Meadowbrook Care Center	320 Merrick Road	Freeport	MONDAY– FRIDAY 7 AM–3 PM WED. 7 PM – 9 PM	Nursing Supervisor	377-8200
Nassau Extended Care Center	1 Greenwich Street & Peninsula Blvd.	Hempstead	MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 AM – 3 PM	Environmental Department	565-4800
North Shore Hospital for Extended Care & Rehab	330 Community Drive	Manhasset	WEDNESDAY 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Environmental Services	562-8083
Oceanside Care Center	2914 Lincoln Avenue	Oceanside	MONDAY 8 AM – 12 AM	Housekeeping	536-2300
Park Avenue Ext. Care Center	425 National Blvd.	Long Beach	MONDAY – FRIDAY	Nursing Dept.	431-2600

Name	Address	Town	Days/Hours of Operation	Contact	Phone
			8 AM – 4 PM		
Parker Institute for Health Care & Rehab.	271-11 76 th Avenue	New Hyde Park	MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 AM – 4 PM	Environmental Services	(718) 289-2155
Parkview Nursing Home	5353 Merrick Road	Massapequa	2 nd TUESDAY OF MONTH 10 AM – 12 PM	Housekeeping	798-1800
Rockville Nursing & Rehab. Center	41 Maine Avenue	Rockville Centre	1 st & 2 nd TUESDAY 10:30 AM – 11:30 PM	Nursing Supervisor	536-7730
Rockville Residence Manor	50 Maine Avenue	Rockville Centre	1 st MONDAY OF MONTH 2 PM – 4 PM	Nursing	536-8000
Sands Point Nursing Home	1440 Pt. Washington Blvd.	Port Washington	1 st MONDAY OF MONTH 2 PM - 4 PM	Infection Control	767-2320
South Shore Health Care	275 W. Merrick Road	Freeport	1 st & 3 rd WEDNESDAY OF MONTH 9 AM - 11 AM	Housekeeping	623-4000
Sunharbor Manor	255 Warner Avenue	Roslyn Heights	LAST TUESDAY OF MONTH 9 AM- 11 AM	Environmental Services	621-5400
Townhouse Ext. Care Center	755 Hempstead Tpke.	Uniondale	WEDNESDAY 8 AM – 3:30 PM	Environmental	565-1900
United Presbyterian Residence	378 Syosset – Woodbury Road	Woodbury	1 st FRIDAY OF MONTH 9 AM - 4 PM	Infection Control	921-3900
Wedgewood Nursing Home	199 Community Drive	Great Neck	MONDAY – FRIDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	Nursing Dept.	365-9229
White Oaks Nursing Home	8565 Jericho Tpke.	Woodbury	THURSDAY 9 AM - 11 AM	Nursing Dept.	367-3400
Woodbury Center for Health Care	8533 Jericho Tpke.	Woodbury	WEDNESDAY 9 AM - 11 AM	Infection Control	692-4100
Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center	121 Franklin Place	Woodmere	1 st MONDAY OF MONTH 2 PM – 4 PM	Infection Control	374-9300 X 159